

## A first step to an exciting career!

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) opens the door to apprenticeship training in a wide range of exciting careers. If you are entering Grade 11 and are at least 16 years old, you can work towards a career in a skilled trade and become a certified journey person while you complete your Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

OYAP helps young people obtain placements in 130 skilled trades that can be learned through apprenticeship training. Students register as apprentices and begin their formal apprenticeship training while they are still in school. With both a diploma and the skills to get the job done when they graduate, these students have a big head start.

After being hired, many apprentices will, because of their skills, be asked to train new apprentices, or will find opportunities to manage operations, start their own businesses, or use their experience as a base for technological or engineering studies at a college or university.



"I always liked to cook, but I never really thought of it as a career. OYAP has given me a new perspective, and because of that experience I'm now sure that I will pursue it as a career."

Miranda Thompson, 19  
Apprentice cook

"I was thinking about taking co-op, but when my teacher told me about

OYAP and all its advantages, I decided to get involved. The program is giving me a chance to look forward to my future."

Brian McClean, 18

Apprentice electrician

"A few years ago some friends of mine talked me into taking auto mechanics in school, and I discovered I really enjoyed it.

Participating in OYAP has put me closer to my dream of becoming a fully certified auto mechanic."

Jennifer Bell, 17  
Apprentice automotive service technician



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There's opportunity here for employers too

OYAP is helping more and more employers find the skilled workers they need to compete in today's global economy.

District school boards involve employers in OYAP by having them provide placements, select OYAP students for those placements, and give advice about opportunities in their community.

Employers benefit from participating because they are training members of their future workforce. They know that good tradespeople are rare and that training students benefits their businesses.



## Here are the facts

- Apprenticeship doesn't mean sitting in a classroom – 90 per cent of apprenticeship training takes place in the workplace, under the guidance of experienced, skilled workers.
- Canada will need one million new skilled workers by 2020.
- Apprentices earn while they learn, and their salaries increase with their learning and experience.
- Certified skilled workers earn more than \$40,000 per year, and with overtime and bonuses they can earn even more. A tool and die maker, for example, can earn more than \$90,000 a year.
- In 2000-01, more than 5500 students participated in OYAP, and more than 4000 employers provided these students with placements.
- OYAP participants don't pay fees to register as apprentices.
- OYAP provides students with the opportunity to explore careers in skilled trades in a safe, supervised environment.

## For more information

If you have questions about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, call the Ontario government's Training Hotline at **1-888-JOBGROW**. In Toronto, call **(416) 326-5656**.

Talk to your guidance counsellor about OYAP and careers in skilled trades.

To find out about careers in skilled trades, check out Career Gateway at [www.youthjobs.gov.on.ca](http://www.youthjobs.gov.on.ca).



### WHAT APPRENTICES AND SKILLED WORKERS SAY ABOUT APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Apprenticeship training is relevant to the job I do now.	81 per cent
If faced with the same decision, I would again choose to take apprenticeship training.	85 per cent

OYAP

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